



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

May 19, 2015

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st Street, N.E., Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Docket Number CP15-118-000: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Virginia Southside Expansion Project II and Request for Comment on Environmental Issues

Dear Secretary Bose:

This letter responds to the May 12, 2015 Federal Register notice concerning the above-referenced project (Volume 80, Number 91, pages 27159-27161, hereinafter cited as "the Notice"), in which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") indicates its intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and responding to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. DEQ also coordinates Virginia's review of federal consistency determinations and certifications prepared pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act ("CZMA") and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program ("VCP").

Our comments on the Notice pertain to proposed facilities and impacts in Virginia only, in keeping with the limits of our state jurisdiction.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

As described in the Notice, an Environmental Assessment is to be prepared to discuss environmental impacts of the "Virginia Southside Expansion Project II, involving construction and operation of facilities by Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC

(Transco) in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina (Notice, page 27159, centre column). The proposed project would include the following facilities:

- 4.3 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline in Brunswick and Greenville Counties;
- Two gas turbine compressor units (each with 10,915 horsepower) at Transco's approved Compressor Station 166 in Pittsylvania County (anticipated construction beginning in October 2015);
- One electric-driven compressor unit (25,000 hp) at the existing Compressor Station 185 in Prince William County;
- A new meter and regulator station and pig receiver facility in Greenville County (a pig is a tool used by the pipeline company to push through the pipeline for cleaning, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes).

(Notice, page 27160, left and centre columns.) The Notice does not map or provide precise locations of the proposed facilities, but states that general locations, shown in appendices, have been sent to people who received the Notice by mail, and are on the FERC web site. (Notice, page 27160, centre column and footnote 2.)

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT: PROJECT SCOPING AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

As you know, NEPA (PL 91-190, 1969) and its implementing regulations (Title 40, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Parts 1500-1508) require draft and final Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for federal or federally licensed or federally funded undertakings which will or may give rise to significant impacts upon the human environment. EISs carry more stringent public participation requirements than EAs and provide more time and detail for comments and public decision-making. The possibility that an EIS may be required for the Transco projects under consideration should not be overlooked in your planning for these projects. Accordingly, we refer to "NEPA document" in the remainder of this letter.

While this Office does not participate in scoping efforts beyond the advice given herein, other agencies are free to provide scoping comments concerning the preparation of the NEPA document. Accordingly, we are sharing our response to the Notice with selected state and local Virginia agencies which have responsibilities bearing on the proposed projects. These agencies are likely to include the following (note: starred (*) agencies administer one or more of the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Plan; see "Federal Consistency..." heading, next):

Department of Environmental Quality:

- Office of Environmental Impact Review
- Northern Regional Office*
- Air Division*
- Office of Local Government Programs*
- Division of Land Protection and Revitalization (formerly Waste Division)
- Office of Stormwater Management*

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Department of Health (Division of Water Programs)*
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*
Virginia Marine Resources Commission*
Department of Historic Resources
Department of Forestry
Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy
Department of Transportation
Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Prince William County

Because of insufficient descriptions of project locations in the Notice, there may be additional agencies, planning district commissions, and localities involved in our review once precise locations of facilities and projects are known to us.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

This guidance on federal consistency applies to parts of the project in Prince William County, which is within Virginia's coastal zone.

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and the *Federal Consistency Regulations* (15 CFR Part 930), activities requiring a federal permit, license, or approval that can have reasonably foreseeable effects on Virginia's coastal uses or resources must be conducted in a manner which is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP). The VCP is comprised of a network of programs administered by several agencies.

To comply with the Coastal Zone Management Act and the VCP, the applicant must submit a federal consistency certification (FCC) to DEQ's Office of Environmental Review. The FCC must include an analysis of the activities in light of the enforceable policies of the VCP (first enclosure), and a commitment to comply with the enforceable policies. In addition, we invite the applicant's attention to the advisory policies of the VCP (second enclosure). Requirements for the contents of FCCs are found in the *Federal Consistency Regulations* (15 CFR Part 930, Sub-part D, sections 930.57 and 930.58) and also in DEQ's Federal Consistency Information Package (available on line at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/EnvironmentalImpactReview/FederalConsistencyManual.7.27.11.pdf>).

The *Federal Consistency Regulations* allow up to six months for review of an FCC (15 CFR Part 930, Sub-part D, section 930.62(a)).

In order to ensure an effective coordinated review of the NEPA document and/or FCC, we request one electronic copy and two hard copies (CD, preferred, or paper) for our files and for small localities. Electronic copies may be sent to eir@deq.virginia.gov

(10 MB maximum) or made available for download at a website, file transfer protocol (ftp) site or the VITAShare file transfer system (<https://vitashare.vita.virginia.gov>).

The NEPA document and the federal consistency certification should include U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps as part of their information. We strongly encourage you to issue shape files with the NEPA document. In addition, project details should be adequately described for the benefit of reviewers of the NEPA document and/or the Federal Consistency Certification.

DATA BASE ASSISTANCE

Below is a list of databases that may assist the FERC in the preparation of a NEPA document:

- DEQ Online Database: Virginia Environmental Geographic Information Systems

Information on Permitted Solid Waste Management Facilities, Impaired Waters, Petroleum Releases, Registered Petroleum Facilities, Permitted Discharge (Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits) Facilities, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Sites, Water Monitoring Stations, National Wetlands Inventory:

- www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/VEGIS.aspx

- DEQ Virginia Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS)

Virginia's coastal resource data and maps; coastal laws and policies; facts on coastal resource values; and direct links to collaborating agencies responsible for current data:

- <http://128.172.160.131/gems2/>

- DEQ Permit Expert

Helps determine if a DEQ permit is necessary:

- www.deq.virginia.gov/permitexpert/

- DHR Data Sharing System

Survey records in the DHR inventory:

- www.dhr.virginia.gov/archives/data_sharing_sys.htm

- DCR Natural Heritage Search

Produces lists of resources that occur in specific counties, watersheds or physiographic regions:

- www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/dbsearchtool.shtml

- DGIF Fish and Wildlife Information Service

Information about Virginia's Wildlife resources:

- <http://vafwis.org/fwis/>

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) Database: Superfund Information Systems

Information on hazardous waste sites, potentially hazardous waste sites and remedial activities across the nation, including sites that are on the National Priorities List (NPL) or being considered for the NPL:

- www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm

- EPA RCRAInfo Search

Information on hazardous waste facilities:

- www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/rcrainfo/search.html

- EPA Envirofacts Database

EPA Environmental Information, including EPA-Regulated Facilities and Toxics Release Inventory Reports:

- www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html

- EPA NEPAAssist Database

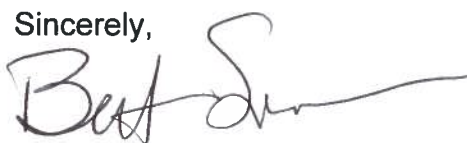
Facilitates the environmental review process and project planning:

<http://nepaassisttool.epa.gov/nepaassist/entry.aspx>

If you have questions about the environmental review process and/or the federal consistency review process, please feel free to contact me (telephone (804) 698-4204 or e-mail Bettina.sullivan@deq.virginia.gov) or John Fisher of this Office (telephone (804) 698-4339 or e-mail john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov).

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Bettina Sullivan, Program Manager
Environmental Impact Review and
Long-Range Priorities

Attachments

cc: Charlette T. Woolridge, Ph.D., Brunswick County
K. David Whittington, Greenville County
Clarence Monday, Pittsylvania County
Raymond Utz, Prince William County

ec: Daniel Burstein, DEQ-NRO
Kelley H. West, DEQ-PRO
Michael Sexton, DEQ-BRRO-L
Keith Fowler, DEQ-BRRO-R
Kotur S. Narasimhan, DEQ-DAPC
G. Stephen Coe, DEQ-DLPR
Larry Gavan, DEQ-OSM
Holly Sepety, DEQ-OSM
Daniel Moore, DEQ-OLGP
Roberta Rhur, DCR
Amy M. Ewing, DGIF
Tony Watkinson, VMRC
Roy Soto, VDH
Roger W. Kirchen, DHR
Everett Kline, DOF
David Spears, DMME
Alfred C. Ray, VDOT
Elizabeth Jordan, VDOT
Dennis K. Morris, Crater PDC
G. Mark Gibb, NVRC
Gail P. Moody, Southside PDC
Leah Manning, West Piedmont PDC

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC

Docket No. CP15-118-000

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
VIRGINIA SOUTHSIDE EXPANSION PROJECT II
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

(May 6, 2015)

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Virginia Southside Expansion Project II involving construction and operation of facilities by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before **June 5, 2015**.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission **before** the opening of this docket on March 23, 2015, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP15-118-000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain

the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings where compensation would be determined in accordance with state law.

Transco provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled “An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land? What Do I Need To Know?” This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is also available for viewing on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov).

Public Participation

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

- 1) You can file your comments electronically using the [eComment](#) feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;
- 2) You can file your comments electronically by using the [eFiling](#) feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on “[eRegister](#).” If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select “Comment on a Filing” as the filing type; or
- 3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP15-118-000) with your submission:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Summary of the Proposed Project

Transco proposes to construct and operate 4.3 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline, gas compression facilities, and associated aboveground and underground facilities to provide about 250,000 dekatherms per day of incremental firm transportation service to Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO). The proposed pipeline would connect Transco's approved Brunswick Lateral in Brunswick County, Virginia (to be constructed in 2015) to a proposed VEPCO power station in Greenville County, Virginia ("Greenville County Power Station"). According to Transco, its project would provide 100 percent of the natural gas required by the proposed VEPCO combined-cycle gas-fired power station. The Greenville County Power Station is subject to regulatory approval by the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

The Virginia Southside Expansion Project II would include the following facilities:

- 4.3 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Brunswick and Greenville Counties, Virginia;
- two 10,915-horsepower (hp) gas turbine compressor units at Transco's approved Compressor Station 166 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia (anticipated construction start date October 2015);
- one 25,000-hp electric-driven compressor unit at the existing Compressor Station 185 in Prince William County, Virginia;
- a new meter and regulator station and pig receiver facility in Greenville County, Virginia;¹
- a new pig launcher facility in Brunswick County, Virginia; and
- modifications at 19 existing facilities in Cherokee and Spartanburg Counties, South Carolina and Polk County, North Carolina, including odorization/deodorization facility modifications, valves, and valve operators.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

¹ A "pig" is a tool that the pipeline company inserts into and pushes through the pipeline for cleaning the pipeline, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes.

² The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the Federal Register. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at www.ferc.gov using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would disturb about 180.4 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, Transco would maintain about 30.2 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. About 84 percent of the proposed pipeline route parallels existing pipeline, utility, or road rights-of-way.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us³ to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- geology and soils;
- land use;
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- air quality and noise;
- endangered and threatened species;
- public safety; and
- cumulative impacts

We will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

³ "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section, beginning on page 2.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA.⁴ Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice.

Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project's potential effects on historic properties.⁵ We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPOs as the project develops. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EA for this project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the

⁴ The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

⁵ The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project.

If we publish and distribute the EA, copies will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. **If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 2).**

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an “intervenor” which is an official party to the Commission’s proceeding. Intervenor’s play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission’s final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are in the User’s Guide under the “e-filing” link on the Commission’s website.

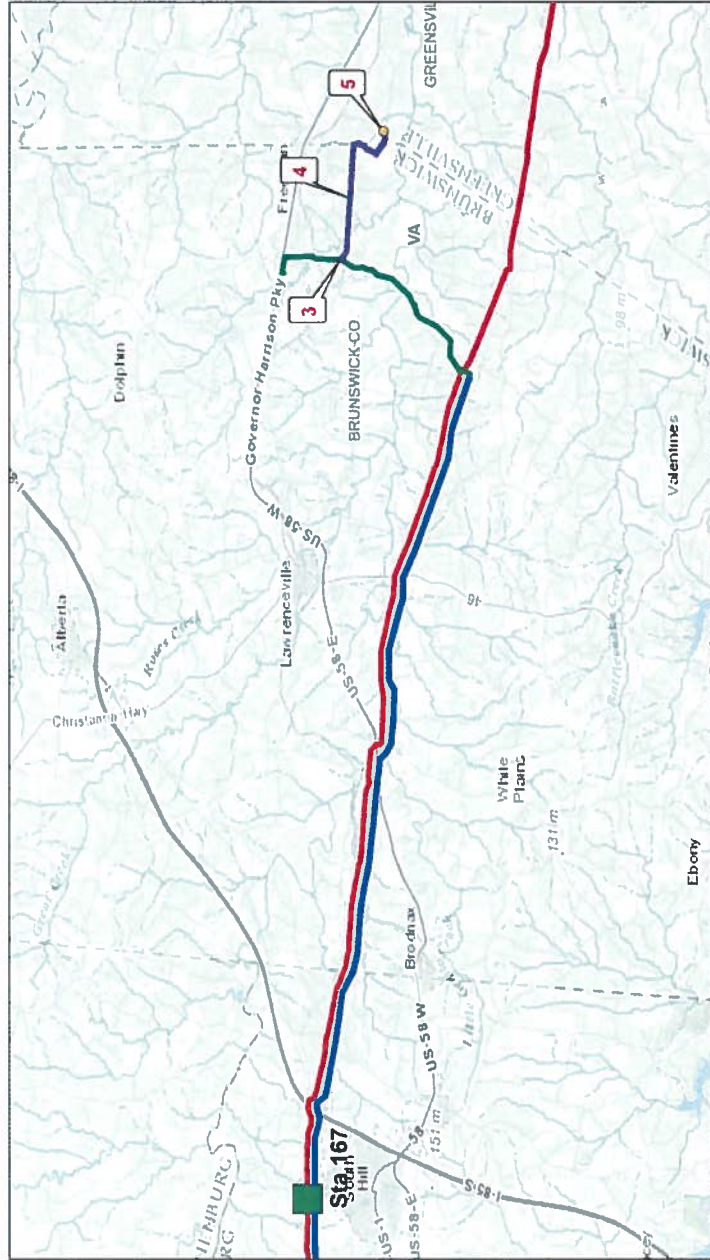
Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission’s Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website at www.ferc.gov using the “eLibrary” link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on “General Search” and enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., CP15-118). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission’s calendar located at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx along with other related information.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

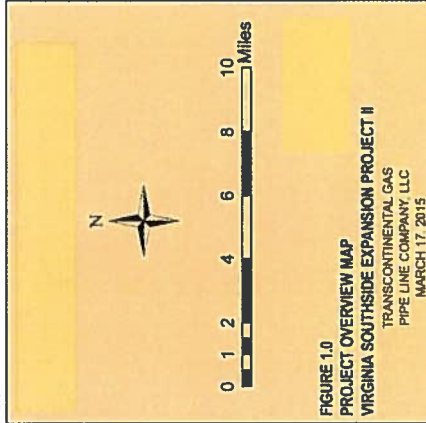


Virginia Southside Expansion Project II

Legend

- Existing Transco Pipelines
- South Virginia Lateral - B Line (To Be Constructed 2015)
- Brunswick Lateral (To Be Constructed 2015)
- Proposed Greensville Lateral
- Existing Compressor Station
- Compressor Station 166 (To Be Constructed 2015)
- Proposed Meter Station

- 1** Compressor Station 185
 - Add one 25,000 HP electric motor driven compressor
- 2** Compressor Station 166 (To Be Constructed 2015)
 - Install two Solar Taurus 70 (10,915 ISO HP each) and three bays of cooling
 - Re-wheel two existing Solar Taurus 70 compressor units
- 3** Greensville Lateral Take-Off
 - Tie-in at MP 5.2 of the Brunswick Lateral
 - Install pig launcher
- 4** Proposed Greensville Lateral
 - Build 4.33 mile 24" lateral from MP 0.0 to 4.33
- 5** Meter Station
 - Construct 250 Mgd/d meter station, install heaters and pig receiver at MP 4.33



INFORMATION REQUEST

Virginia Southside Expansion Project II

Name _____

Agency _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

☐ **Please send me a paper copy of the published NEPA document**

☐ **Please remove my name from the mailing list**

FROM _____

ATTN: OEP - Gas Branch 1, PJ - 11.1
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

(CP15-118-000 Virginia Southside Expansion Project II)

Staple or Tape Here